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LETTER DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF PALESTINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing in my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of February 1997. I refer to my letter dated 21 February 1997 addressed to you (A/51/805-S/1997/149), in which I conveyed to you the great concern of the members of the Arab Group at the persistence of Israel, the occupying Power, in pursuing unlawful policies and taking illegal measures in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan, and, in particular, at its persistence in building settlements there in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the Hague Rules of 1907 and numerous resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, thereby posing a grave threat to the peace process in the Middle East and to the integrity of the agreements concluded in that respect between the parties. I also refer to my letter dated 25 February 1997 addressed to you (A/51/808-S/1997/157), by which I transmitted the text of a communiqué issued on 23 February 1997 by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States stressing that Israel's persistence in establishing settlements in [illegible] occupied Arab territories would have grave repercussions for the peace process. Further to those letters, and in the light of the decision of the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, to begin the construction of 6,500 housing units in the Abu Ghunaym area to the south of occupied East Jerusalem - a measure that is being taken in blatant defiance of the position adopted by the international community in this regard and given expression by the Security Council - I have the honour, on behalf of the Arab Group, the members of the League of Arab States, to make an official request that an immediate meeting of the Security Council be held in order to consider illegal Israeli settlement activity, particularly in East Jerusalem.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer

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